

Amendments to the Specification:

After the title but before the first paragraph, please insert the following new paragraph:

CROSS REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

This application is a 371 filing of PCT International application no. PCT/CN2004/000434 filed April 30, 2004 and published in English as WO 04/097021 on November 11, 2004 which claims the priority of GB Application No. 0310181.3 on May 2, 2003, the disclosures of which are hereby incorporated by reference in their entirety.

On a separate page, page 48, please insert the following abstract:

ABSTRACT OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates to a process for the detection of nucleic acids from biological or environmental samples. The technique involves the amplification of the nucleic acid of interest, after conversion to cDNA if necessary, after which the amplified nucleic acid is used as the template for further amplification by the real-time PCR (RT-PCR) technique. This combination of amplification procedures increases the sensitivity and specificity of the amplification compared with conventional amplification techniques. The invention also relates to primers for the use in this method and a diagnostic test kit.

Submitted herewith is a substitute sequence listing in both paper (5 pages) and computer readable forms for entry into the present application. The content of the paper and computer readable forms is identical and contains no new matter.